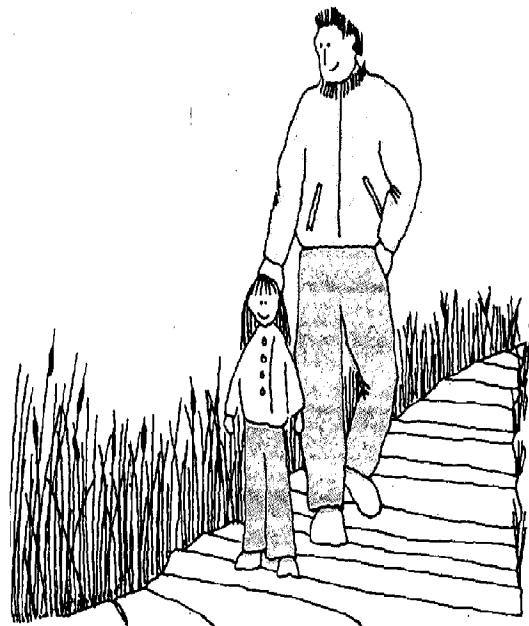


The Delaware Estuary Public Access Guide



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List of Maps

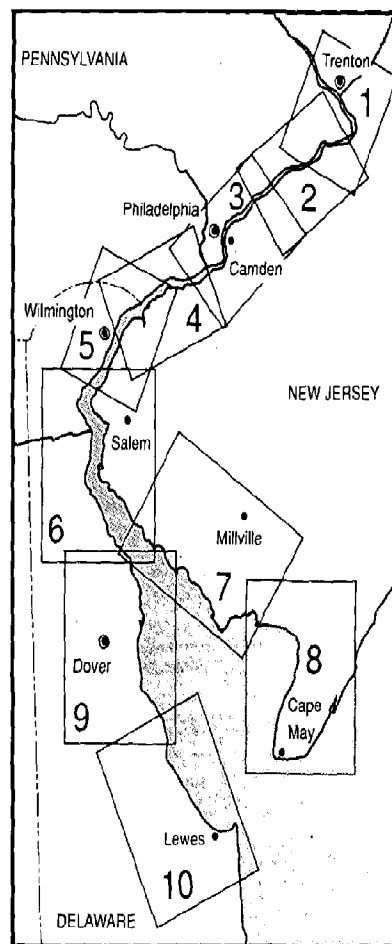
Map Area

- | | |
|----|--------------|
| 1 | Trenton |
| 2 | Burlington |
| 3 | Philadelphia |
| 4 | Chester |
| 5 | Wilmington |
| 6 | Salem |
| 7 | Millville |
| 8 | Cape May |
| 9 | Dover |
| 10 | Lewes |

1st Printing, May, 1992
2nd Printing, January, 1993

This pamphlet was prepared by the Delaware Estuary Program's Public Participation office. It was funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The purpose of this pamphlet is to pinpoint access sites which are open to the public. The only private marinas listed are those that maintain permanent pump-out stations. Although every effort was made to verify the accuracy of all information contained within, conditions are constantly changing and inaccuracies may still exist. Please notify us if you think something is incorrect or omitted so that the correction can be made in the next printing. Please direct all comments to

The Delaware Estuary Program
1-800-445-4935



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Special thanks to Steve Birns, Stephanie Craighead, Sidney Craven, Marjorie Crofts, Karen Day, William Douglass, Beth Drost, James Falk, Steve Feltenberg, Deborah Freeman, Karen Holm, Andy Johnson, Bill Johnson, Tony Patterson, Dave Pollison, Vanyla Tierney and Steve Whitney.

Introduction

This series of maps indicates the locations of public access sites, recreational facilities and historic and cultural places of interest in the Delaware Estuary. The Estuary includes the Delaware Bay and River from Cape Henlopen/Cape May, north to the Falls at Trenton, and all of the tidal tributaries along the way. This area covers the land and waterways of thirteen counties within the states of New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania.

The Delaware Estuary Program commissioned the production of this pamphlet in order to promote awareness of the number and diversity of public recreational and cultural resources within the estuary area. It is the hope of the Delaware Estuary Program that this public access pamphlet will enable many of the five million people living near the estuary to rediscover its natural beauty and unique resources.

Parks

National, state, county, and larger municipal parks and greenways are noted on the following maps. Recreational facilities available at these parks are indicated by symbols explained on the next page. Respect for posted signs and marked trails is important if we hope to maintain these natural areas for future generations.

The Atlantic Flyway

Our abundance of natural areas on the Bay is one reason so many migratory birds visit each year. The Atlantic Flyway is the east coast path used by migratory birds in the Spring and Fall. The Delaware Estuary provides a major link in this migratory chain which stretches from South America to Canada. Each Spring and Fall, the estuary hosts massive migrations of shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors, and songbirds. More than 250 species totalling over a million individual birds stop here to feed and rest from their journey. The Delaware Estuary is most famous for its huge numbers of egg-laying horseshoe crabs and the subsequent quantity and variety of migratory shorebirds stopping to feast on the eggs. May is the best month to observe this. The estuary is one of the largest staging areas (stopping-off points) for shorebirds in North America. Examples of species that can be seen in abundance are ruddy turnstone, semipalmated sandpiper, red knot, sanderling, semipalmated plover and short-billed dowitcher. The shorelines from Woodland Beach, south to Cape Henlopen in Delaware and from the Cohansey River, south to Cape May in New Jersey, attract the largest numbers of birds. To prevent disturbing this critical natural cycle between the birds, the crabs, and their habitat, you should refrain from driving on the beach; keep dogs on a leash; and observe the spectacle from an unintrusive distance.

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Recreational Boating

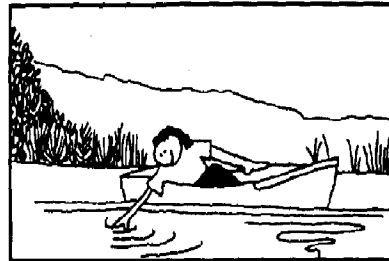
Boating is a favorite Delaware Estuary pastime. Sailboats canoes, sculls and motorboats share the Delaware with larger commercial vessels and military craft. The upper estuary hosts the nation's second largest freshwater port. The lower estuary provides a vital link in the Intracoastal Waterway system. Instead of sailing offshore, mariners often save time by travelling easily from the Chesapeake Bay to the Delaware Bay by way of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. Originally opened in 1829, the twelve-mile canal now handles more than 15 million tons of shipping annually. From the C&D Canal, the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) follows Delaware Bay to the Cape May Canal and into Cape May Harbor. From there, it follows the New Jersey ICW north. On the Delaware side, mariners can enter the Roosevelt Inlet and follow the Lewes-Rehoboth Canal south to the Delaware ICW.

The visitor should allow time to visit the numerous historic towns and cultural points of interest in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware while following the Intracoastal Waterway. A short detour north from the C&D Canal would permit visits to Philadelphia, the New Jersey state Aquarium at Camden, and scenic, historic and cultural sites further north. These sites, located throughout the estuary, are marked on the maps with their names and appropriate symbols.

Boaters have special responsibilities in pollution prevention. Garbage should be retained on the boat and disposed of properly. Small boats

should have portable sanitary waste containers on board and larger boats should have properly operating marine sanitation devices to dispose of waste. Both devices should be emptied at pump-out stations which are shown on the maps. Cleaners, paint and antifouling compounds should be disposed of properly and never overboard. Plastic floatables such as wrappers, plastic bags, styrofoam cups and six-pack yokes are especially hazardous to marine life. Dispose of them in trash containers on shore or, better yet, don't use them.

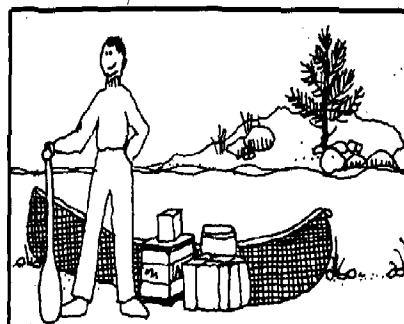
Shoreline erosion is always a concern. Reducing your wake when close to shore or when traversing narrow rivers and streams can help to avoid erosion.

















Water Quality

Since the 1980's, water quality in the Delaware Bay and upper Estuary has improved dramatically and now ranges from good to excellent. It is suitable for swimming and nurtures numerous species of finfish and shellfish. Recreational fishermen favor weakfish, American shad, white perch, bluefish, tautog, the American oyster, blue crab, blue mussel, hard-shelled clam and soft-shelled clam. Fishing and crabbing areas with public access are noted on the maps with appropriate symbols.

Water quality improvement in the Delaware River and Bay has been achieved slowly, but serious problems still exist. The Delaware is less polluted in recent years primarily due to the development and upgrading of municipal and industrial wastewater treatment facilities. However, intense human use of the river between Wilmington and Trenton for industrial, transportation and residential needs degrades the water quality in the upper estuary. Non-point source pollution (pollution from sources without a specific point of discharge) also lowers water quality. We can all help to reduce non-point source pollution by eliminating occurrences of fertilizer and pesticide run-off, spilled motor oil, animal waste run-off (from pets and farm animals), improperly operating septic systems, erosion from construction sites or farms, hazardous waste improperly stored or discarded, pollution from roadways and road salt activities, and disposal of wastes in catch basins. If we are not careful, these pollutants will end up in our street gutters, storm drains, streams, groundwater, and the estuary.



Map Symbols

-  Boat Ramp
-  Car-Top Launch
-  Fishing
-  Crabbing
-  Swimming
-  Marina w/Public Pump Out Facilities
-  Recreational Facilities
-  Picnic Area
-  Restroom
-  Campground
-  Nature Center
-  Nature Trail
-  Barrier-Free Access Trail
-  Horse Trail

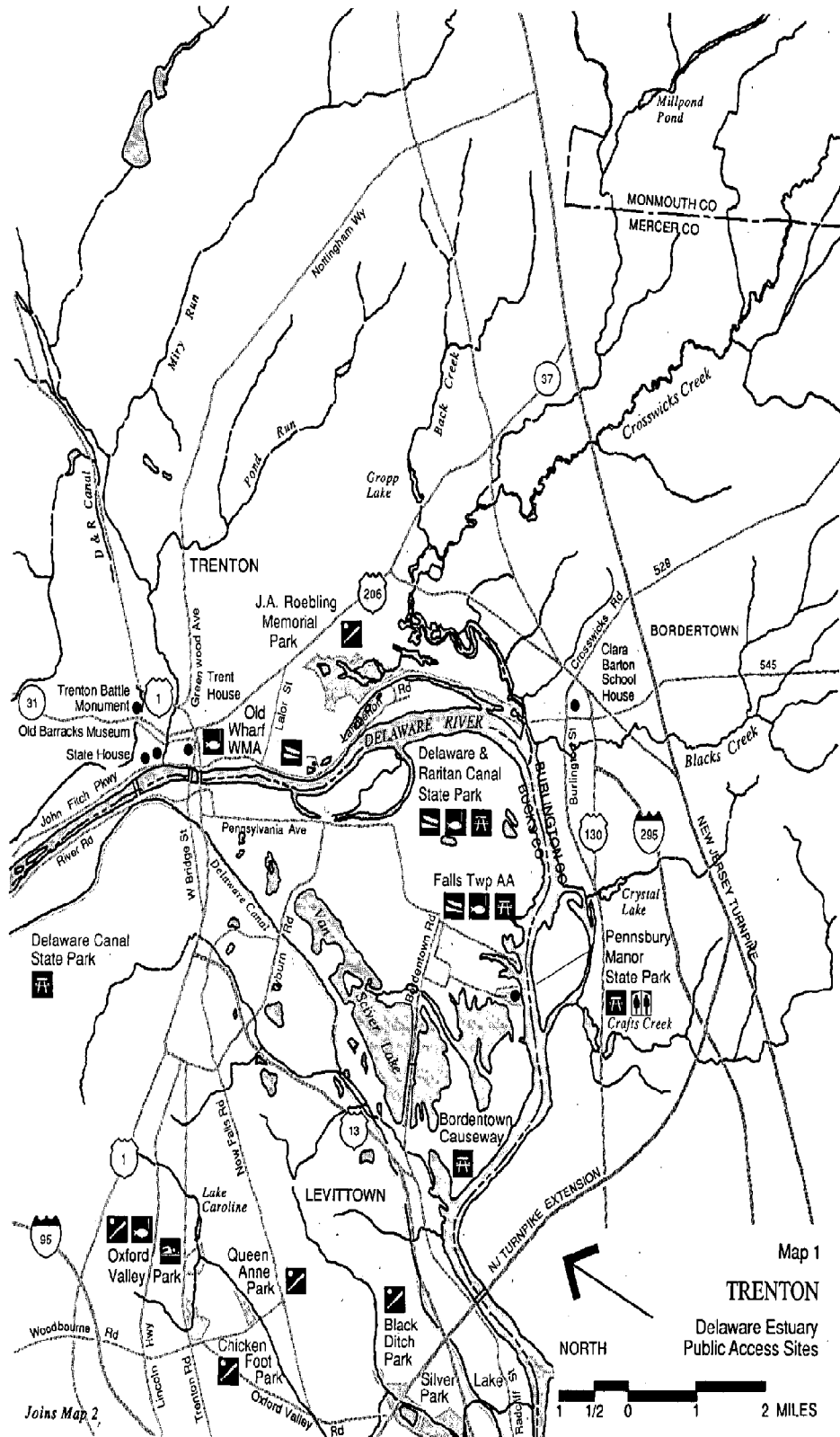
Map Color Code

- Green Park areas, AAs, NWRs, WAs, WMAs
- Red Cultural and Historic points of interest
- Grey Access roads
- Black Symbols, marinas, county boundaries

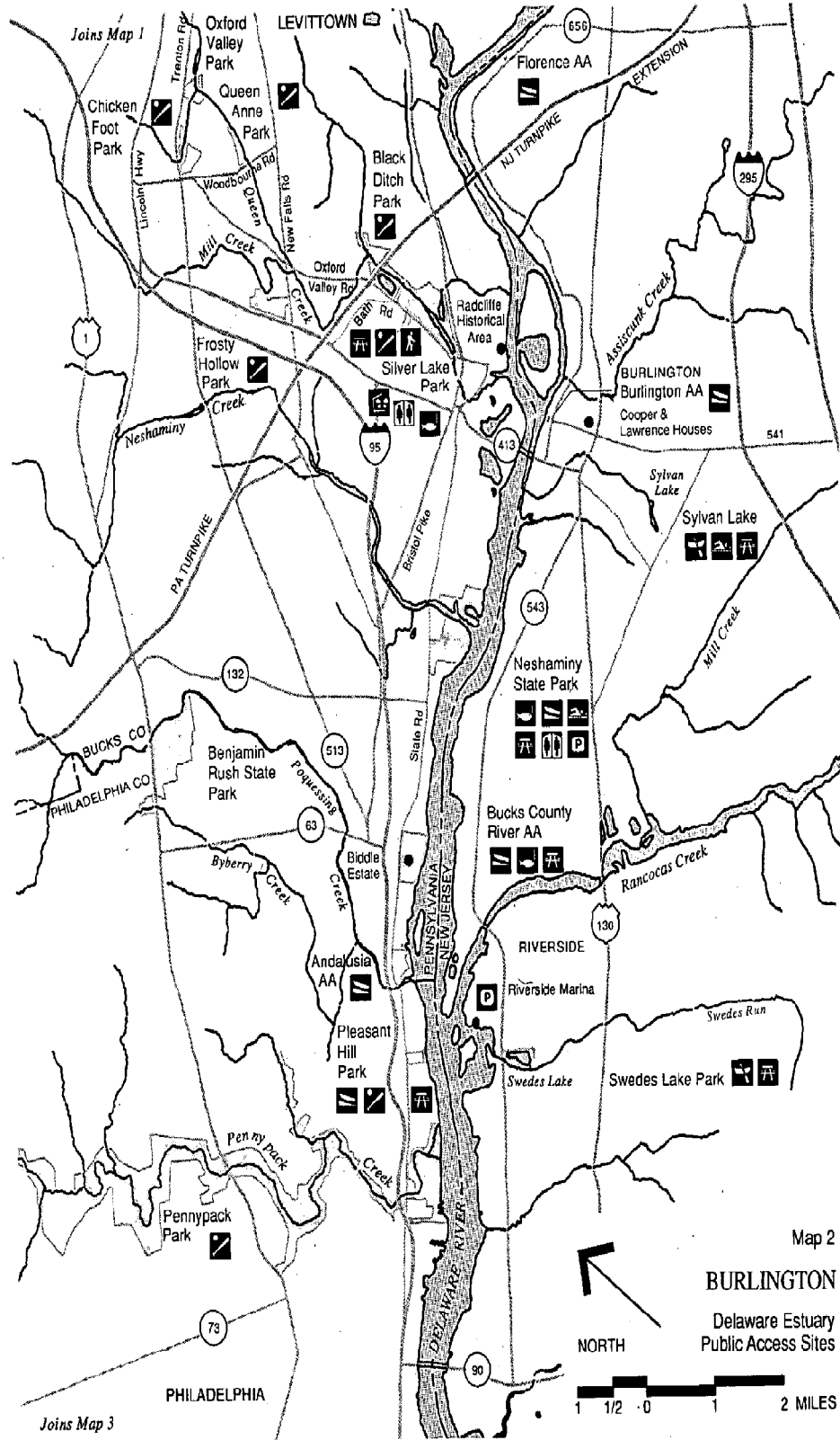
Map Abbreviations

- AA Access Area
- NWR National Wildlife Refuge
- WA Wildlife Area
- WMA Wildlife Management Area

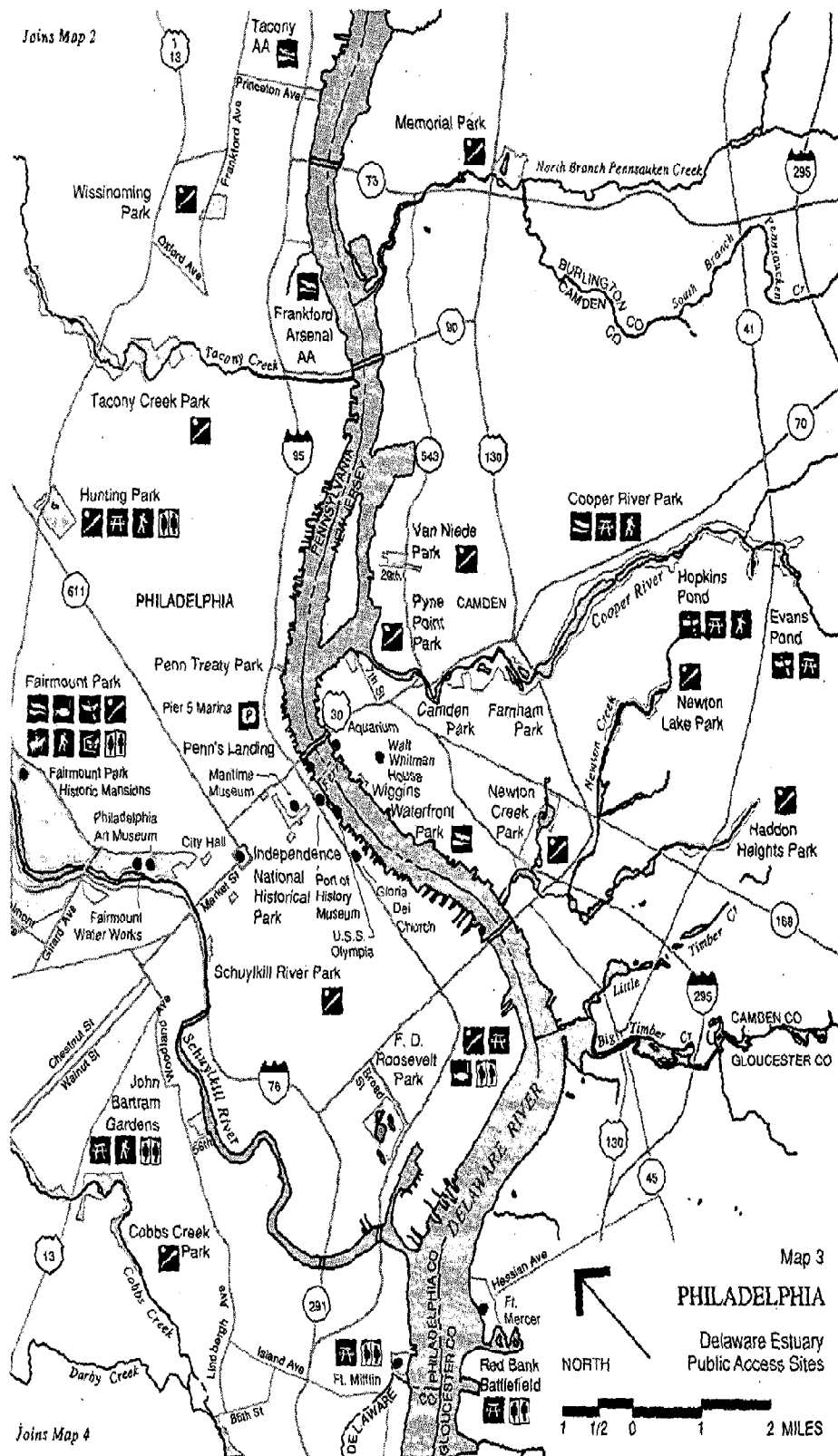
Map 1



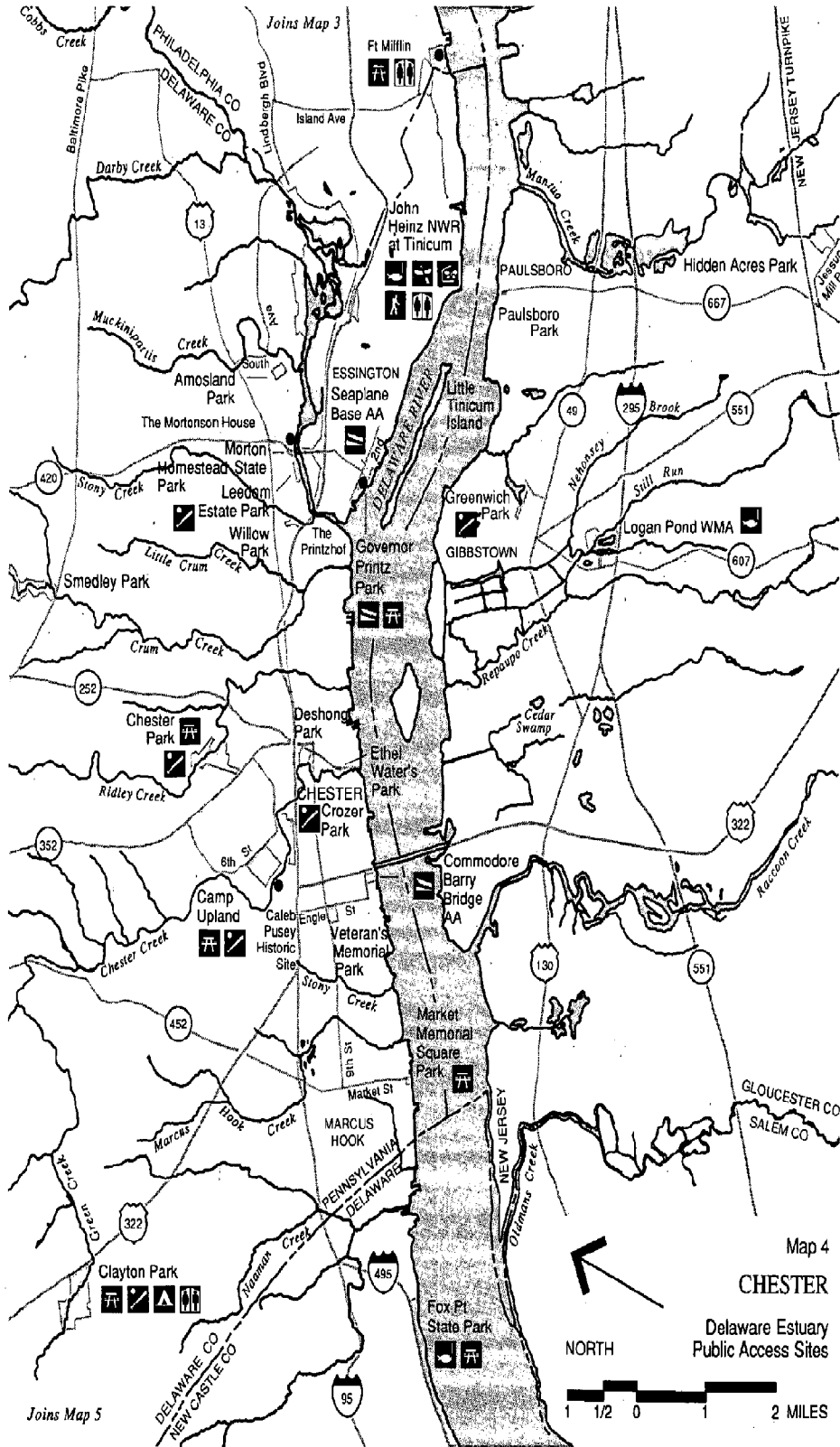
Map 2



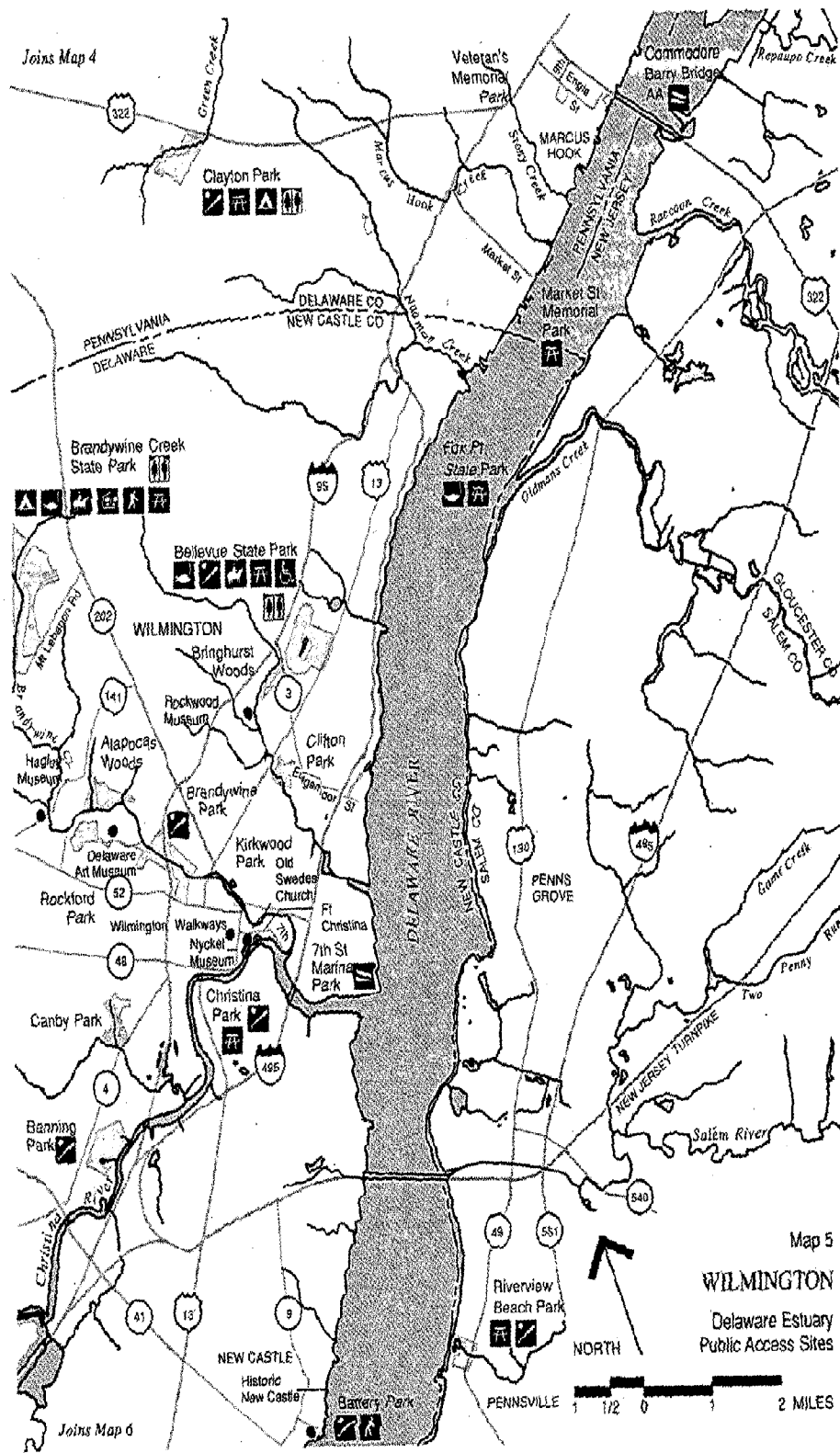
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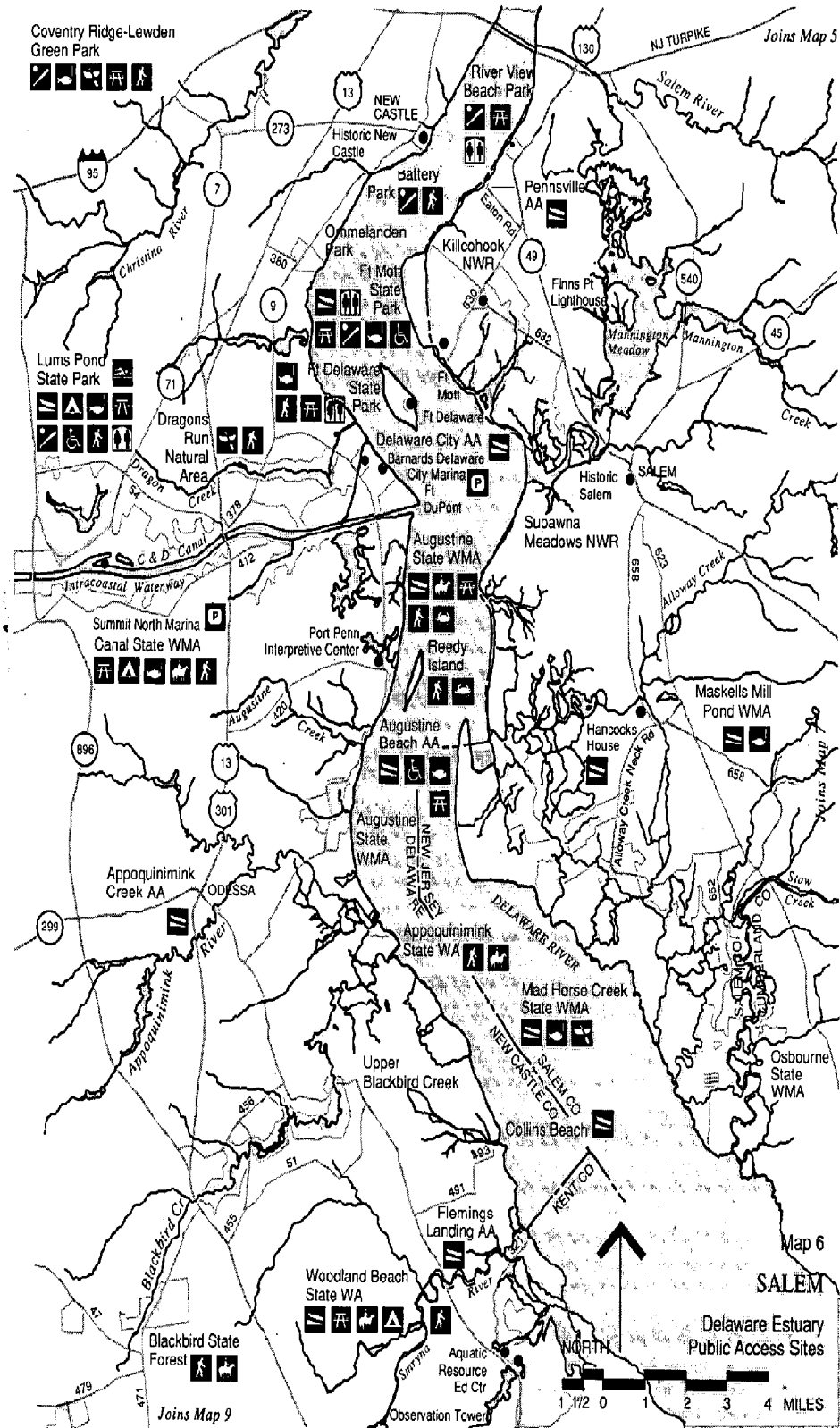
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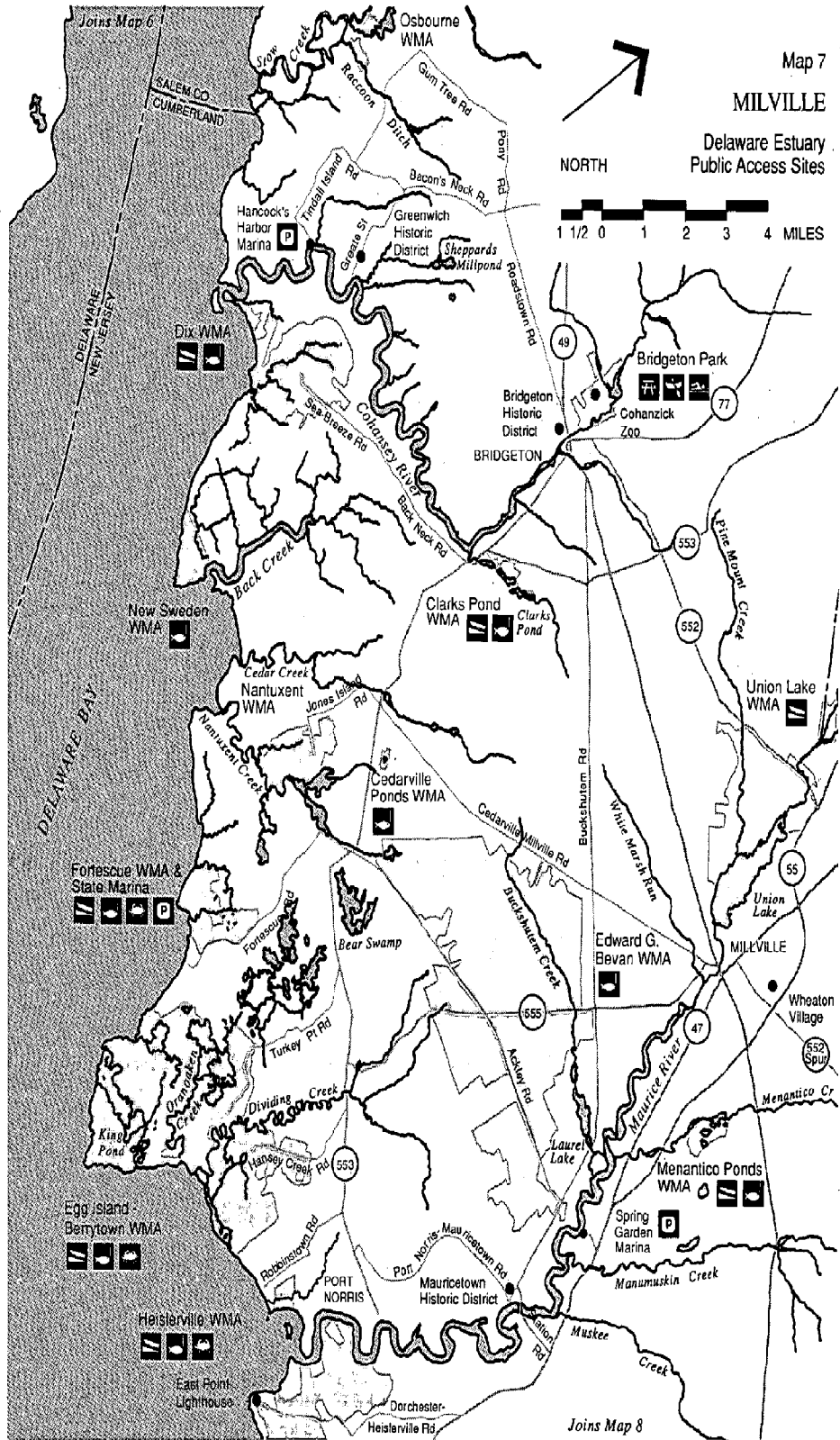
Map 5



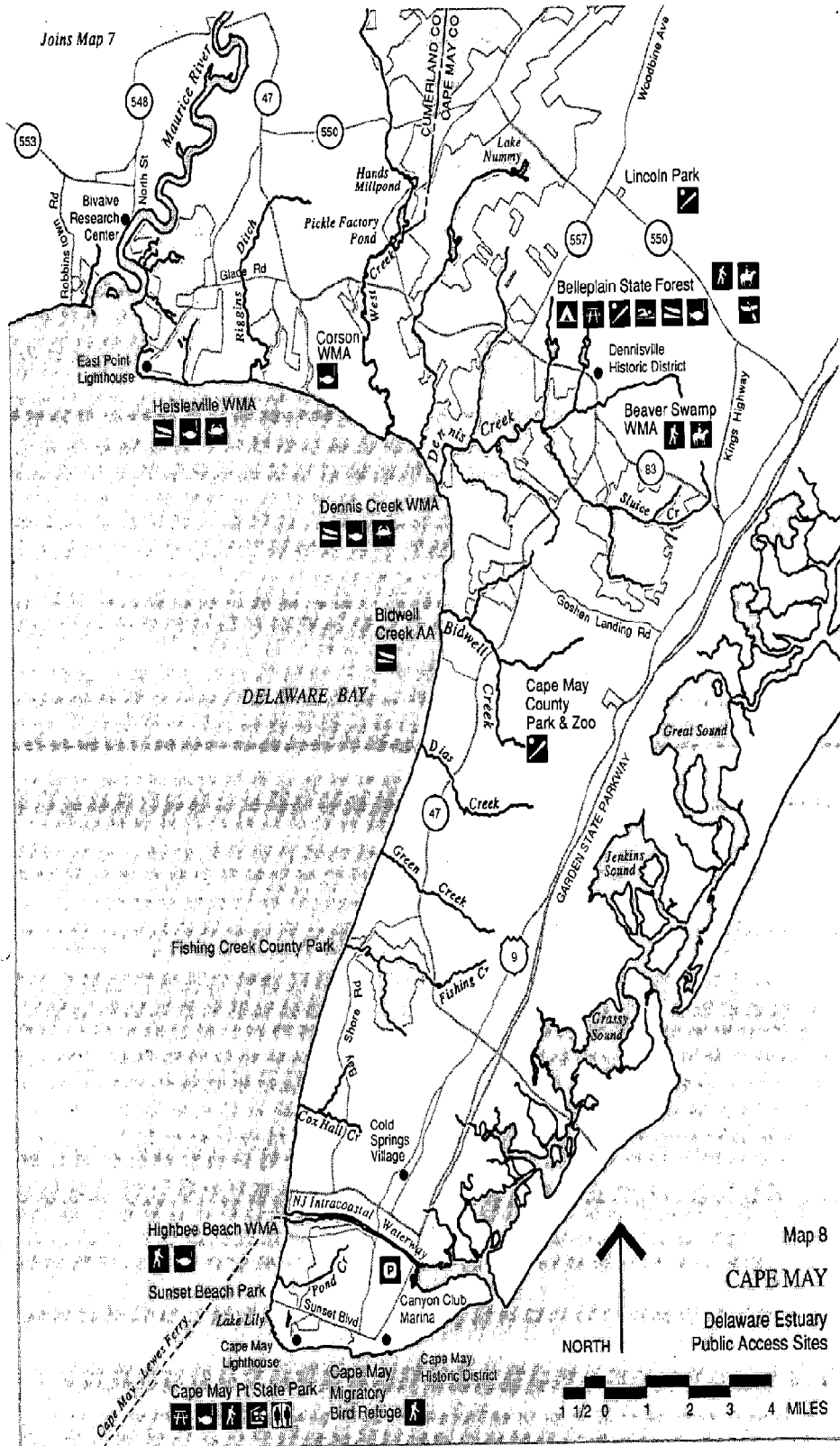
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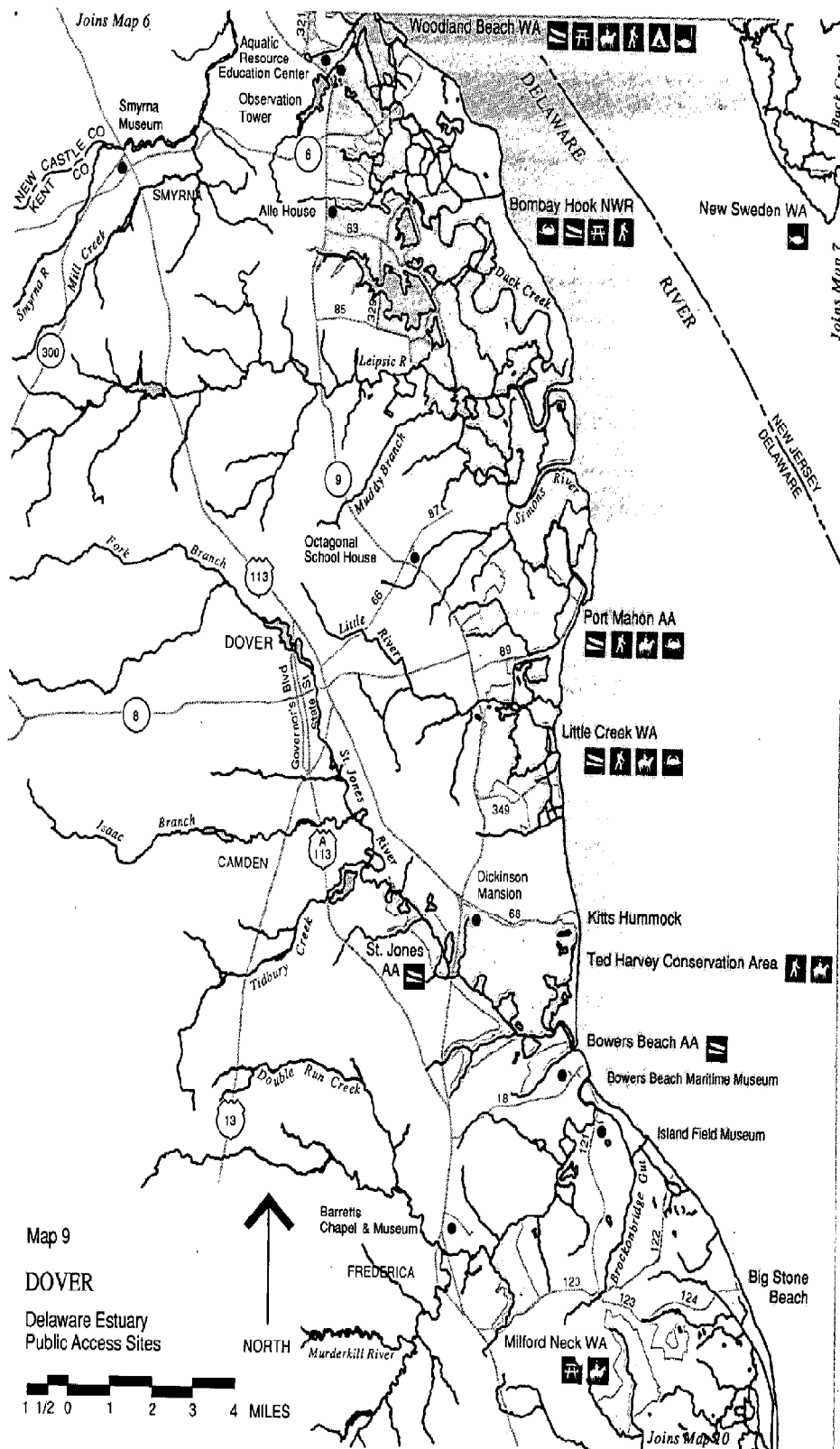
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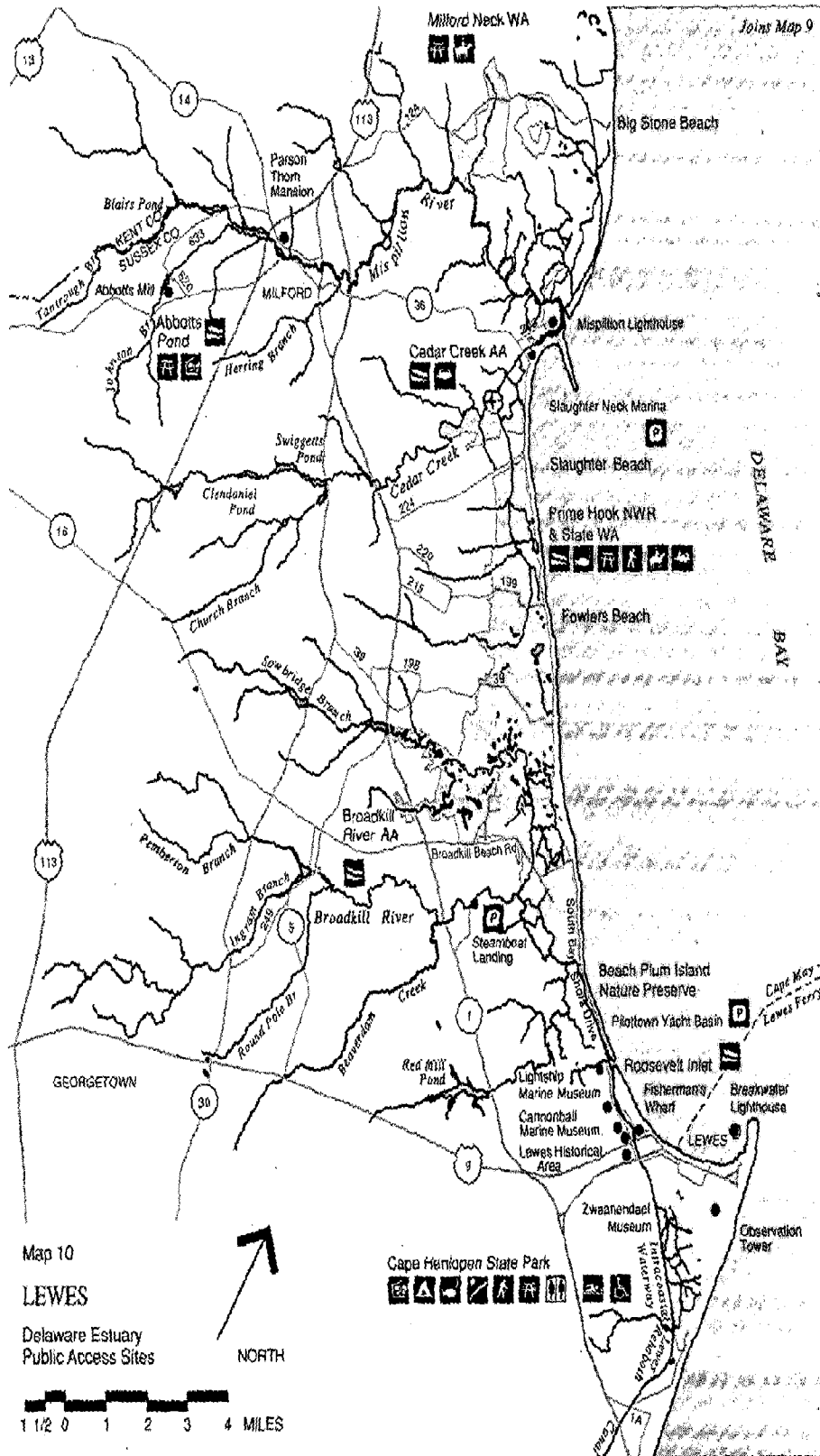
Map 8



Map 9



Map 10



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Delaware Estuary Program

The Delaware Estuary Program was established to develop a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan that will protect and enhance the natural resources of the estuary. The Program can provide direction for continued restoration and protection of the estuary, but only together, with our concern and participation, can we ensure clean waters, bountiful resources, protected habitat, recreational opportunities and responsible commercial leadership throughout the entire Delaware Estuary. To get involved in the Program or to receive a free subscription to the quarterly newsletter, call

The Delaware Estuary Program
1-800-445-4935



This reprint of the Public Access Guide is funded by Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control



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